

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 7 are amended. Claim 8 is added. The claim amendments and the added claim introduce no new matter because they are supported by at least the claims as originally filed, and the disclosure at least at page 15, lines 4-7. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 2, rejects claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the term "inner peripheral center" recited in claim 1 is asserted to be unclear. Claim 1 is amended to obviate the rejection.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite are respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 4, rejects claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over, U.S. Patent No. 6,513,260 to Comita et al. (hereinafter "Comita"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that Comita discloses many of the features recited in independent claim 1. The Office Action, however, indicates that an inner peripheral center that is eccentric to the outer periphery of the preheat ring, which the Office Action clearly concludes is not expressly disclosed in Comita, would be inherently present based on the fact that a perfectly ideal ring cannot be made, so off-centers would result from imperfect manufacturing processes. Applicant does not concede that this conclusion is correct, or that such a conclusion even if correct supports a rejection of the pending claims under at least §102(b), but Applicant voluntarily amends claim 1 to clarify this feature.

Claim 1 recites, among other features, the preheat ring is formed such that an inner peripheral center of the preheat ring is eccentric to an outer periphery of the preheat ring, and

the inner peripheral center is misaligned by not less than 1 mm to an outer periphery center of the preheat ring. Such a level of eccentricity would not meet the Office Action's conclusion that such a feature would be inherent based on imperfect manufacturing processes. In other words, imperfect manufacturing processes would not inherently produce the inner peripheral center being misaligned by not less than 1 mm to an outer periphery center of the preheat ring, as positively recited in independent claim 1.

Further, because objectives of the inventions, and/or problems solved by the inventions, are markedly different between Comita and the subject matter recited in the pending claims, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to arrive at a solution such as that recited in the pending claims in view of the teachings of Comita.

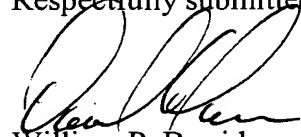
For at least these reasons, Comita cannot reasonably be considered to teach, or even to have suggested, the combination of all of the features recited in independent claim 1. Further, claims 2-7 are also neither taught, nor would they have been suggested, by Comita for at least the respective dependence of these claims directly or indirectly on independent claim 1, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §§102(b) and 103(a) as being anticipated by, or unpatentable over, Comita are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-8 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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WPB:DAT/axl

Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

Date: December 13, 2005

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